

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-08 /079 W

-----021134 108474 /14

R 011423Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7404

INFO USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAITI REACTION TO SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR

REF: (A), KUWAIT 1037, (B) KUWAIT 1020

1. HARSH ASSESSMENT OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST BY KUWAITI PRESS, REPORTED REFTELS, CONTINUED WITH AN AL-QABAS EDITORIAL OF FEB. 27 WHICH DENIES THAT US IS GIVING PRIORITY TO SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS: "THE ARABS DECEIVE THEMSELVES WHEN THEY REPEATEDLY CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES GIVES "PRIORITY" TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. APPARENTLY, THE ARABS OF GENEVA ARE STILL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE KISSINGERIAN MAGIC DESPITE THE IMPACT OF THE COLD "SHOWER" CAUSED BY THE RECENT TOUR TO THE REGION BY CYRUS VANCE."

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE KUWAIT TIMES EDITORIAL OF FEB 27 DESCRIBED VANCE TRIP AS "NON-START" (SIC) AND SAID "VANCE WAS LESS THAN FAIR WHEN HE CLAIMED AFTER RETURNING TO WASHINGTON THAT THE ARAB STATES ARE DIVIDED ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTION OF...THE PALESTINIAN STATE." THE WRITER ASSERTED THAT THERE ARE NO REAL ARAB DIVISIONS AND THAT THE USG IS USING AS AN EXCUSE (TO PORTRAY AN ARAB SCHISM) EGYPT'S ADVOCACY OF A PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN FEDERATION AS AGAINST KING HUSSEIN'S REMARK TO VANCE "THAT THE CONFEDERAL LINK-UP" PROPOSAL WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO HIM "UNLESS THE ARABS DISAVOW THE PLO AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." VANCE ALSO IS CALLED "DULL", "COLORLESS"  
AND LACKING IN "ORIGINALITY OF APPROACH."

3. COMMENT: IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE  
SKEPTICISM IN KUWAIT ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF A FAIR (OR  
ANY) MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND THE EFFICACY OF THE  
SECRETARY'S MISSION IN STARTING PROGRESS TOWARD IT. THE  
BASIC CONSIDERATIONS HERE SEEM TO BE DOUBT THAT THE US HAS  
THE WILL TO EXERT SUFFICIENT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO ACHIEVE  
THE COMPROMISES NEEDED FOR SETTLEMENT, AND DOUBT THAT THE  
30-YEAR-OLD ARAB-ISRAELI IMPASSE CAN BE SETTLED AMID SO  
MUCH ILL WILL AND AFTER THE NUMEROUS FAILURES OF THE PAST.  
HOWEVER, IN ANALYZING THIS REACTION, IT IS IMPORTANT TO  
RECOGNIZE THAT THE EDITORIAL AND REPORTORIAL STAFFS OF THE  
KUWAITI ARABIC PRESS ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY COMPOSED OF  
PALESTINIANS, WHO ARE TRADITIONALLY HOSTILE TO US INTERESTS.  
THESE PALESTINIANS ARE GENERALLY MORE MILITANT AND POLIT-  
ICALLY-ORIENTED THAN THE BULK OF THE LOCAL PALESTINIAN  
COMMUNITY, WHICH, WHILE SYMPATHETIC, HAS GENERALLY  
DISPLAYED A MORE MODERATE ATTITUDE IN THESE MATTERS.  
THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE KUWAIT TIMES IS A SPECIAL CASE IN THAT  
ITS EDITOR IS A RATHER RABID INDIAN, REPUTED TO BE OF  
COMMUNIST PERSUASION. THUS, THE EDITORIALS QUOTED ABOVE  
AND IN REFTELS DO NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT GENERAL KUWAITI  
OPINION AS WE UNDERSTAND IT. WHILE THERE IS A CONSENSUS  
WHICH IS SKEPTICAL, WE DO SENSE AMONG OFFICIAL KUWAITI  
LEADERS A GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE US AND OTHER  
PARTIES A CHANCE TO PUT TOGETHER A MIDDLE EAST PEACE THROUGH  
THE GENEVA PROCESS. UNLIKE THE PALESTINIANS, THE KUWAITIS  
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WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE, AND A GREAT DEAL TO GAIN FROM  
PEACE IN THE LONG RUN, AND MANY KUWAITIS APPRECIATE THIS.  
MAESTRONE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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